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**MORNING SESSION**  
**Thursday, 17 June 2021**

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**Article 39 - Reopening**

Br S Thompson reads Psalm 111 and invites all present to stand and sing Psalm 111:1, 2 and 5. He then leads in prayer and the chairman reopens the meeting.

**Article 40 - Appeals of Hymns of Australian Book of Praise**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in response to questions from the Advisory Committee.

**Article 41 - Committee work**

Synod breaks for committee work.

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**AFTERNOON SESSION**  
**Thursday, 17 June 2021**

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**Article 42 - Acts of Synod**

Articles 26-38 of the Acts are adopted.

**Article 43 - Appeals of Synod Bunbury 2018 Articles 76, 77 and 78**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the appeals and overtures received in relation to Synod Bunbury 2018 Articles 76, 77 and 78, and the matter is referred to an Advisory Committee.

**Article 44 - Orthodox Presbyterian Church**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the Deputies' recommendations regarding the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and the matter is referred to the Advisory Committee.

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**EVENING SESSION****Thursday, 17 June 2021**

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**Article 45 - Reopening**

The chairman invites all present to stand and sing Hymn 52:1 and 2. For the benefit of the audience, he explains what has been achieved during the sessions today.

**Article 46 - Address of the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa**

A recorded video address is presented by Rev J Bruintjes on behalf of the Free Reformed Churches of South Africa (refer Appendix 1h), after which Rev A Hagg leads the meeting in prayer for the sister churches in South Africa.

**Article 47 - Address of the Gereja-Gereja Reformasi Indonesia - Timor**

A recorded video address is presented by Br CI Nguru and Br F Missa on behalf of the Gereja-Gereja Reformasi Indonesia - Timor (refer Appendix 1i), after which Rev RD Anderson leads the meeting in prayer for the sister churches in Timor.

**Article 48 - Overall Deputies' Report for Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia****I. Material**

Item 11.c – Overall Deputies' Report for Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia

Item 8.i.1 – Overture from FRC Melville re Overall Deputies' Report – Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia

Item 8.j.3 – Overture from FRC Bunbury re Overall Deputies Report – Interchurch Relations – Outside Australia

1. Deputies propose that guidelines be adopted regarding with whom, how and when we have sister-church relations. They indicate that the development of these guidelines will require input from the churches.
2. Bunbury supports this recommendation of deputies and the notion of concentrating on churches that are physically closer.
3. Melville supports this recommendation of deputies and proposes considering the merits of pursuing and maintaining ecclesiastical contact with churches where a sister church relation is not immediately feasible.

**II. Admissibility**

All of the items are declared admissible.

**III. Decision**

Synod decides:

1. To maintain the current arrangement of having one deputyship for interchurch relations outside of Australia as per art. 111 of Synod Bunbury 2018.
2. To mandate deputies to:
  - a. develop and propose to synod guidelines with whom, how, and when to establish sister church relationships. These guidelines ought to be in line with Articles 27-29 of the Belgic Confession and Article 46 of the Church Order. This process

- ought to take into consideration previous synods' decisions and guiding principles;
- b. as part of this, give attention to the question whether it can ever be legitimate or beneficial to have two sister churches in one country including cases when those two churches are unable to find unity;
  - c. consider the merits of an alternate form of ecclesiastical contact with churches of Reformed confession with whom a sister church relationship is not immediately feasible;
  - d. seek input regarding the manner in which we maintain relationships with other churches from both the churches of the FRCA as well as our sister churches; and
  - e. report to the churches, if possible, 15 months before the next synod, to enable adequate time for the churches to interact with deputies about this, and to enable deputies to present a final report with recommended guidelines 6 months before the next synod.

**Grounds**

1. Deputies included such a proposal in their report, and several churches have indicated their support.
2. Decisions about inter-church relations made by major assemblies in the past have not been consistent.
3. Deputies have requested advice on how to deal with three federations in Indonesia, while Bunbury suggested that the question is relevant for our interaction with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and the Southern Presbyterian Church. This is also relevant for our interaction with the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
4. The development of these guidelines requires the input of the churches, and a 15 month consultation period provides a thorough mechanism for that to happen.

**ADOPTED****Article 49 - FRCA Website****I. Material**

Item 11.b – Report from Website Committee

**II. Decision**

1. To thank the committee for their work and appoint new deputies.
2. To approve the Website Committee budget of \$1,200 for the period 2021-2024.
3. To appoint a website administrator as part of the committee for a three-year term to manage the technical aspects of the running of the FRCA site.
4. To appoint an additional member to the committee for a three-year term to regularly update the news feed and other information as required.
5. To accept and approve the staging site (<https://frcastaging.frca.org.au/>) and approve that it replace and relocate to the current site (<https://www.frca.org.au/>).
6. To mandate the committee to:
  - a. to maintain and keep current the content on the FRCA website and the associated technical functions;
  - b. to set up an email address to be included in the church year book for news and content updates;
  - c. to invite the churches to send news items and press releases to the website committee for inclusion on the FRCA website;

- d. to investigate options around improvements to email hosting;
- e. to investigate and implement improved Search Engine Optimisation (SEO) in the interests of promoting the churches in the local and wider community;
- f. to investigate the possibility of social media integration including guidelines for management; and
- g. to serve Synod 2024 with a report of their activities, a financial statement, a proposed budget, and any recommendations regarding additional content or functionality.

**Grounds**

1. The churches will be well-served by a regularly updated website.
2. A presence on the internet is valuable for the promotion of our churches in the local and wider community.

**ADOPTED****Article 50 - De Gereformeerde Kerken and Gereformeerde Kerken Nederland**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the Deputies' proposals relating to the DGK and the GKN, and the matter is referred to an Advisory Committee.

**Article 51 - Training for the Ministry**

A number of rounds of discussion are held in relation to the Advisory Committee's proposed amendments to the deputies' proposal regarding Training for the Ministry, and then given back to the Advisory Committee for refining.

**Article 52 - Adjournment**

Rev P Archbald reads Revelation 3:14-22 and leads in prayer. He invites all present to stand and sing Psalm 138:1 and 2 and synod is adjourned.